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Free WiFi!

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www.holidaymarket.org or 541-686-8885

Venues: Concerts provide arts for all ages

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Underground venues face a variety of other hurdles to avoid getting shut down.

Glenn Shires, a University alumnus who had a few shows at a house called Bignu during the 1999-00 academic year before he and his roommates moved, said repeated visits from police can strain tenant-landlord relationships and lead to eviction. Also, fines for underage drinking and noise complaints often sway residents to quit having shows, he said.

"I think most basement venues around campus have a similar story," Shires said. "People throw a few parties with bands, eventually the cops show up and then the tenants give up on live music because it's too much of a hassle."

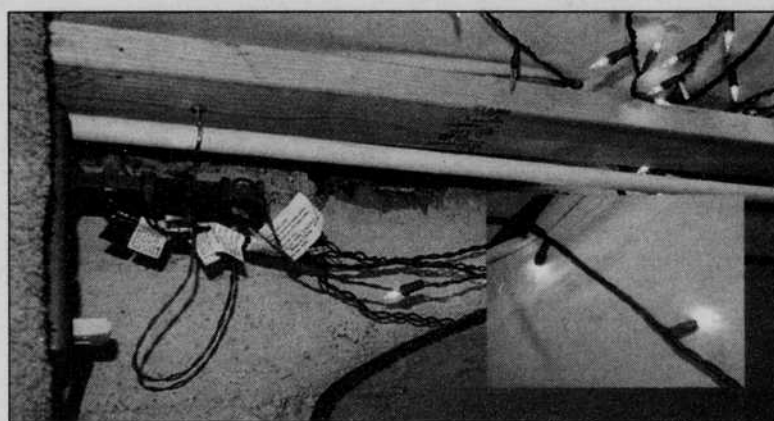
Shires also said loud music is often seen as the predominant problem for underground venues, but police are the bigger issue.

"These house venues get shut down when the Party Patrol sees people congregating outside," he said. "Obviously if they spot people drinking, they're going to investigate."

Other underground venues have included The Animal Farm, The Spoke, My House, The Basement, The Spot, The Corral, The Alamo and Le Sous-sol. Most shut down because owners moved or because of the police, Shires said. He said only The Alamo and Le Sous-sol have closed because of fire code violations, and Le Sous-sol has since reopened.

Stonehenge has one direct door to the outside and a door at the top of a winding staircase into the house. Carpet lines the walls of the basement, and lights are strung around and between the pillars.

University student Ashley Keneller and her housemates opened Stonehenge at the beginning of fall term. They have, on average, one show every two weeks and are beginning to



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Twinkle-light cords are stacked in a power strip behind the performance area at Stonehenge, a basement venue at 2841 Central Blvd. These lights are pressed into the fabric covering the ceiling of the basement in many places.

hold events showcasing other arts as well, she said.

The venue can hold 50 or 60 people, the house's residents said. Keneller said 30 or fewer people show up for most events, although 50 or more people have come at times.

University junior and house member Adam Zeek said it's difficult to juggle avoiding noise complaints and protecting the safety of people attending shows.

"On the one hand, you want people to come, and on the other hand, you don't want it to get out of control," Zeek said. "On the one hand, you want it to be quiet, and on the other hand, you don't want to put carpet on the walls."

Two of Zeek's housemates, University students Matt Brown and Whitney Gum, pointed out that soundproofing the basement without putting carpet on the walls would cost more than they could afford. Most of their money, time and energy has gone into the basement, Keneller added. They even purchased an amplifier so bands wouldn't have to bring their own, she said.

Zeek said the venue is invaluable and provides access to art unavailable

elsewhere. He said he and his housemates have tried to "keep on top of things," juggling noise complaints with safety, and that they're doing everything within their means to protect the people who come to shows at Stonehenge.

"We're concerned enough to get a fire extinguisher and to mark both exits," Zeek said, noting they purchased the extinguisher with their own money and have a first-aid kit on hand.

University Arts and Administration professor Doug Blandy has conducted research on various types of art venues. He said shows at basement venues like Stonehenge and My House, which closed in 2003 when the student who created it moved, are typically small enough to be safe.

"Whenever you bring a group of people into your house, you're concerned for their safety," Blandy said. "I think these house concerts are part of the larger fabric through which people are able to experience arts and culture. It's an opportunity for people to reach smaller audiences with arts and cultural events that may not be of interest to the mainstream."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

THE REC



PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

It's not too late to add some fun to your busy winter class schedule – register for a PE class today! There are over 190 classes to choose from for academic credit or non-credit. Register early for the best selection.

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE!

REC PROGRAMS

WINTER INTRAMURAL SPORTS PREVIEW

Leagues: Basketball, Co-ed Volleyball & Floor Hockey

Tournaments: Pac 10 3-on-3 Basketball, Indoor Soccer, Stadium Football (play in Autzen Stadium) and Wrestling

FITNESS PROGRAMS

Get a jump on your New Year's Resolution and avoid the crowds! Check out our Fitness Programs: Fitness Orientation (free), Fitness Assessment and Fun Individualized Training (F.I.T.) Program. For more information call 346-1364.

REC AEROBICS & GROUP CYCLING

Registration begins on Monday, January 3rd at 8:00 am (classes begin on Monday, January 10th)

REC FACILITIES

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Recreation Facilities begin holiday hours on Thursday, December 9th. For more detailed information check out the PARS website at <http://pars.uoregon.edu> or call 346-4183.

LOCKER RENTAL PROGRAM

Tired of lugging your personal items around all day? Rent a locker in the Student Recreation Center or Gerlinger - sales begin on Monday, January 3rd at 6:30 am. There are a limited amount of lockers available so come early for the best selection! **GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINALS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**